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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY East Germany

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SUBJECT KVP in Rostock

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SOURCE

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1. Between 17 January and 22 February 1953, source determined that a mechanized KVP special regiment was located in the barracks installation on Tachakowsky Street and Kopernikus Street in Rostock. The regiment was organized into 5 battalions of 3 companies of 60 to 65 men; 1 tank battalion which included about 35 tanks mounting 120-mm and 85-mm tank guns, 23 light armored scout cars including 5 equipped with radio antennas and 7 light-armored 76.2-mm guns on selfpropelled mounts; 1 technical service company; and 1 replacement company. As a mechanized unit the regiment, according to T/O and T/E, was to be organized into battalions of three companies, companies of three platoons, platoons of three squads and squads of one squad leader and seven men. Each squad allegedly included one squad leader and eleven men with normal infantry units.¹
2. Guns stored in the barracks area during the time of observation included about 32 x 76.2-mm AT guns and 4 guns of about 100-mm with muzzle brakes in addition to the above mentioned heavy weapons. The 100-mm guns allegedly were the Soviet heavy AT gun model which had been the subject of classroom indoctrination.²
3. Motor vehicles in the barracks area included 55 Horch trucks which were stored except for seven trucks used in the city area.
4. Officers assigned to units of the post included Lieutenant Colonel Ernst Kirchner, regimental commander; Major Heinrich Sioleck, chief of staff; Major Schulz (fnu), supply officer; Captain Plass (fnu), section head; Captain Herbert Motzanek, section head; Captain Jakob Hertel, section head; Captain Junge (fnu), supply officer; and Senior Lieutenant Loehke (fnu), supply officer.
5. Infantry training of the unit was held on the drill ground inside the barracks area. Major exercises including record firing of tanks and AT guns were held on a training grounds between Klein Schwass and Biestow. Companies each with three model 43 tanks marched to this training grounds in close formation.

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6. A course of instruction for internal service supervisors which began in the installation in early February 1953 involved about 160 NCOs from all districts of East Germany as trainees and 28 officers as instructors. The course was opened in the presence of two VP generals from Pasewalk.
7. Source determined that the KVP regiment at Rostock was subordinate to the 1st Div in Eggesin.¹
8. A registration office (recruiting district headquarters) was on Kopernikus Street, about 50 meters east of the entrance to the KVP billets.
9. Special criminal regulations were recently issued to improve the discipline of KVP units. They established that major offenses came under the jurisdiction of military courts and provided for capital punishment at the severest penalty.

10. Between 5 and 26 February, source determined that the new Fuesilier Kaserne on Kopernikus Street at Rostock was occupied by a KVP unit totaling approximately 3,000 men. Almost all soldiers observed wore dark-blue service color which, source learned, was that of mechanized troops. Officers assigned to the unit included Colonel Wilhelm Riedel, commanding officer; and Major Schultz (fnu), mess officer.⁴
11. During the period of observation, the men of the unit were observed at basic training and piece drill with four 76.2-mm AT guns. Driving practices which involved 2 or 3 T-34 tanks [redacted] were regularly held on the training grounds at Neue Rennbahn.

12. About 500 men who wore dark-blue uniforms and seemed to be recruits were quartered in a cantonment on the east side of the training grounds.
13. Between 8 February and 8 March, source determined that a KVP unit of 2,700 to 3,000 men was located in the new Fuesilier Kaserne in Rostock. Most soldiers observed wore blue patches. Some soldiers wore red-bordered black patches with crossed-barrel insignia. The unit which allegedly consisted of technical services and tank units was equipped with 6 T-44 tanks, 6 x 57-mm AT guns, 6 model ZIS-3 x 76-mm field guns, 16 x 82-mm mortars and an undetermined number of heavy and light machine guns.

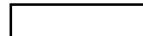
14. Several low wooden buildings were constructed on the western perimeter of Rostock after early January 1953. The buildings were subsequently occupied by 400 to 500 KVPs who still wore old-style blue uniforms.

1. [redacted] Comment. The statements of the present report refer to the former KVPD 1411 in Rostock which is scheduled to be integrated into the Eggesin mechanized division as the 3d Mecz Regt and to move to the Eggesin-Karpin area. The information on weapons largely coincides with statements of deserters. Tanks with 120-mm guns (JS tanks) are reported for the first time.

2. [redacted] Comment. Soviet-made 100-mm AT guns are reported for the first time with the KVP.

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3.  Comment. Lieutenant Colonel Kirchner is confirmed as regimental commander.

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4.  Comment. Colonel Riedel is not the commander of this unit, but the division commander of the Frenzlau division.

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